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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT SED Indoctrination and School System

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EVALUATION OF SOURCE

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1. SED indoctrination for party members is carried out on four levels. On the lowest level is the indoctrination of individual party members within local SED chapter meetings. On a regional basis, there are more formal schools in each district, followed by still more intensive party education in the Land schools. On the top level, embracing all Germany, is the Karl Marx Reich School.
2. On the lowest level, every SED member must participate in school evenings. These evenings are aimed at strengthening party discipline, indoctrination in basic dialectics, and the strengthening of resistance to possible reactionary influences. At these sessions specially trained party officials indoctrinate the members, in line with carefully prescribed topics, on SED attitudes toward current events. Attendance lists are accurately kept. Once a month every local SED chapter submits a progress report to its district office, including in the report details of teaching methods used, teaching directives, and so forth. One copy of this report goes to the district chief; another is sent to the district Propaganda-Obrann (propaganda supervisor.)
3. On the next higher level, every SED district maintains an SED district school. (The number of districts within each of the five Lands in the Russian Zone of occupation varies between 14 and 22.) District schools are directed by higher party functionaries who have themselves gone through a propaganda and teacher course at the Karl Marx Reich School.
 - a. A district school course is of one week's duration. Topics covered include basic training in "scientific socialism" and "historical materialism" (the application of these basic principles to current policy); and practice in public speaking. Considerable attention is also given to direct organization; that is, the work of directly influencing the population through daily policy, at the lowest party levels. This includes door-to-door propaganda, organizing of class-conscious housewives, propaganda for cooperative shops, and so forth.
 - b. For members who have passed this course, a further two-week specialist course is open. The material of the basic course is studied in more detail, and a brief study of the history of the Soviet Union and the history of trade unions is added.

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Document No. 2
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- c. From October 1946, when Wilhelm Pieck inaugurated these courses, to 1 March 1947, eighteen thousand functionaries had attended these SED district schools.
4. Each of the five Lands in the Russian Occupation Zone has an SED Land level school. These schools are all located on requisitioned country estates. In the three or four week Land school courses, students are divided into various groups, in line with their party careers. These groups include party administrators, treasurers, literature supervisors (Literatur Obmänner) and managerial officials. Works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin are read. Instruction is given on the methods of organizing workers' councils in factories, cooperation with workers' unions in tactical questions, and so forth. Ulbricht, Grotewohl, and other party theoreticians deliver guest lectures.
5. Highest in the SED school hierarchy is the Karl Marx Reich School located at Liebenwalde/Sieburg (Brandenburg) in the Russian Zone, north of Berlin. Up to the end of 1946, the courses in this school lasted four months, but at present they are of six months' duration. Students of some special courses remain at the school for as long as two years, but these students have periods of one to three months practical duty in SED managerial posts within the time of their studies.
- a. Director of the school is a Dr. Kropp, who speaks German as well as his native Russian. During a recent trip to the Ruhr area, he had identity documents bearing the name J. Keller.
- b. The school is divided into six sections, each headed by a Dozent. All six Docents come from Russia. Each one has an assistant, who does the actual work. The assistants are Germans who have been trained in the Marx-Engels Institute in Moscow. One of them is said to be a former Nazi indoctrination officer (NS Führungsoffizier) and later a member of the Seidlitz Committee. The assistants are paid RM 800 a month, plus maintenance.
- c. The group entering the school in February-March 1947 totaled 151 students between the ages of 18 and 53 years. About a third of the students are women. Another third, 61 students, came illegally from the western occupation zones.
- d. Most students return home once a month for three days in order to permit themselves to be seen in their home towns and to allay suspicion. Documents for this travel are issued by the school authorities.
- e. In March-April 1947 almost all students were on a three week "election leave", doing propaganda work in the Hamburg and Ruhr areas for the English Zone elections. Documents were all issued with false names. Each student also received specific directives for their missions, plus so-called "Kommissars-Briefe" to be shown to local KPD offices in the western zones.
- f. Within the school are also an informant network and agents provocateurs, designed to locate and eliminate disloyal elements among the students.

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